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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1005

December 6, 2001

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Federal Communications Commission  
 Office of Secretary

The Honorable Michael IC. Powell  
 Chairman  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street, S.W.  
 Room 8A201  
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Michael:

It has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is reviewing the potential ancillary terrestrial use as a complement of 2 GHz mobile satellite service (MSS). Allowing this use may provide another means of offering broadband services. I am supportive of ensuring high speed Internet access to all areas of America and of exploring all the potential methods of doing so.

Additionally, I believe the recent tragic events have underscored the important role that satellites can play to ensure communication capabilities. The potential ability of MSS to provide Internet service to Americans allows for one additional communication medium in the case of an emergency, I have also been informed that our military forces, who often operate in rural areas, may be able to use MSS for their Internet connection.

This proposal does not require the sharing of spectrum. In addition, terrestrial service would be allowed only after commercial operation of the satellite service and in a manner consistent with prior Commission decisions on combined use systems.

I urge the Commission to give appropriate attention to this proposal as it considers options to provide high speed service to all of America.

Most respectfully,

*Max Cleland*  
 Max Cleland  
 United States Senator

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